

REMARKS

Allowed claims 1-26 have been cancelled. However, this claim cancellation and any previous arguments and/or amendments should not result in prosecution history estoppel because Assignee is pursuing claims with a different and broader claim scope.

It is further noted that the Assignee's failure to comment directly upon any of the positions asserted by the Examiner in the prior office actions does not indicate agreement or acquiescence with those asserted positions.

New claims 27-53 have been added. No new matter has been added. Support for the new claims is found, among other places, in Figures 3 and 4 of the specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in the present patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the present patent application in view of the same, and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. Please charge any underpayments or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

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